

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 NEA-11 AF-10 DRC-01 /209 W

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P R 132248Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2724

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

ALL AMCONSULS IN CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0437

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

PASS USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: ENERGY: CANADIAN PRESS COMMENT ON WASHINGTON ENERGY
CONFERENCE.

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1. APART FROM TORONTO STAR EDITORIAL ON FEBRUARY 11 STATING THAT FOR VARIETY OF REASONS THERE WAS "FAINT PROMISE" IN THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND THAT "CANADA FITS ODDLY INTO THIS ODD CONFERENCE FROM WHICH SO LITTLE IS EXPECTED," THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO RPT NO OTHER EDITORIAL NOTICE OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE CANADIAN PRESS AS REPRESENTED BY MONTREAL, OTTAWA AND TORONTO. STAR STATED THAT WHILE OIL PRICES WILL NOT RETURN TO THEIR OLD LEVELS THEY WILL FIND THEIR "TRUE LEVEL SOONER IF THE PRODUCERS AREN'T GIVEN REASON TO PUT NEW POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON TOP OF ECONOMIC ONES." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "THE EFFECT OF THE OIL SHORTAGES ON THE TOTAL ECONOMY OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, WHO COMPRISE OUR MAIN TRADING PARTNERS, IS OF VITAL CONCERN; SO FAR AS THE SHORTAGE ITSELF IS CONCERNED, WE ARE ALMOST LUCKY BYSTANDERS" AND CITES CANADIAN OIL SHORTFALL AS BEING 8.3 PERCENT BASED ON NEW YORK TIMES STATISTICS.

2. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL OF FEBRUARY 11 EMPHASIZED EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP'S VIEW (AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER) THAT "ONE THING IS CLEAR, THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM," THAT REAL CHALLENGE OF CONFERENCE LIES IN PROVIDING REALISTIC FOLLOW-UP ON PROBLEMS, AND THAT CANADA WANTS TO WORK THROUGH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS WORLD BANK, IMF, AND OECD. OTTAWA CITIZEN ARTICLE TURNED ON SHARP'S REPORTED VIEW THAT OIL PRODUCERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIDING THE THIRD WORLD "AS WELL AS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM." MAIN THRUST OF OTTAWA JOURNAL REPORTING WAS THAT IN PRELUDE TO CONFERENCE MR. SHARP IN MEETING WITH JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA HAD FIRMLY DISCOURAGED ANY LARGE-SCALE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALBERTA OIL SANDS, A REACTION DESCRIBED AS SIMILAR TO ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD'S RESPONSE TO SIMILAR PROPOSAL ON U.S. SIDE FROM FEO ADMINISTRATOR SIMON IN JANUARY 31 BILATERAL TALKS.

3. IN FEBRUARY 12 REPORTING, CANADIAN PRESS DWELLED ON FRANCE AS "THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT" AND OTTAWA JOURNAL HEADLINED "SHARP BLASTS FRENCH STANCE," NOTING THAT SHARP "REGRETTED" FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT'S FEBRUARY 11 SPEECH UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH SEEMED TO SHATTER WHAT LOOKED LIKE A DEVELOPING AGREEMENT AMONG THE EC ON NEED FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, ON OTHER HAND, KEYED ITS REPORTING TO SHARP'S MINIMIZING CANADA'S EXPORT POTENTIAL AND IGNORING "A THINLY VEILED U.S. PLEA THAT CANADA JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES AND AGREE TO SHARE ITS PETROLEUM SUPPLIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN AN EMERGENCY". SHARP'S POSITION WAS DESCRIBED AS ENDORSING THE SHARING PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE WHILE

REJECTING IT IN PRACTICE.

JOHNSON

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